

# The Puerto Rico Climate Change Council Collaborates to Assess Vulnerabilities *Quijotesco* or a Success?





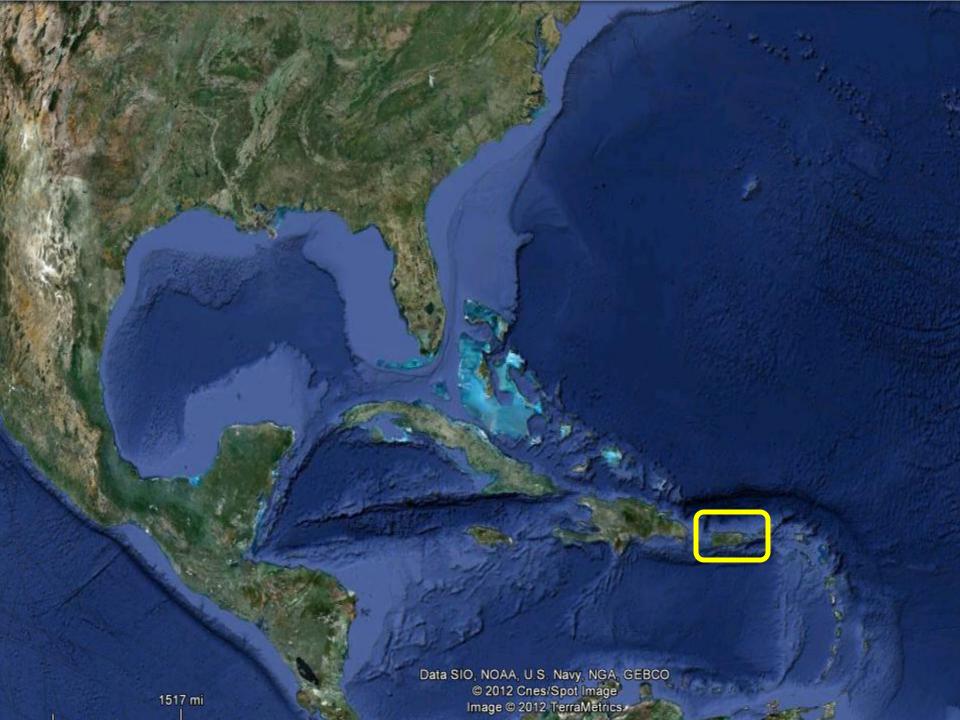
Kasey R. Jacobs
PRCCC Executive Secretariat
National Adaptation Forum
April 2013





#### **Presentation Outline:**

- 1. Borinquen/Boriken 101
- 2. The PRCCC's Process & Results Summary
- 3. Challenges
- 4. ¿Quijotesco o un éxito?





## The Island of Enchantment





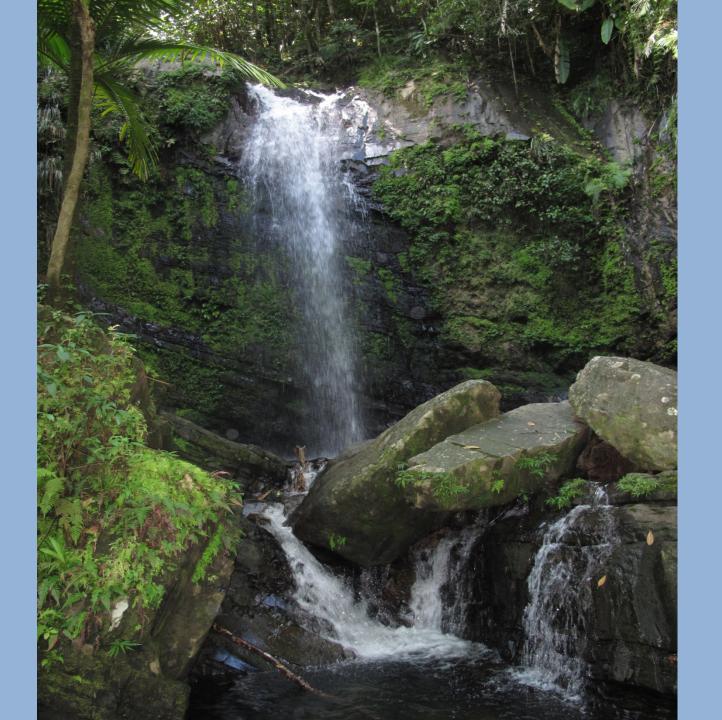
























#### **CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORTS IN PUERTO RICO**

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory (1996)
- 2007 Climate Change Declaration by Scientists to Government and Citizens of Puerto Rico
- 2007 and 2009 Roundtables on Climate Change (Dr. Rafael Mendez Tejeda, UPRM and Dr. Ruperto Chaparro, Sea Grant; Group of 33)
- 2008 Puerto Rico Global Warming Law and Commission (Executive Order)
- White House Task Force on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment – U.S. Caribbean included for 2013!!
- PRCZMP Coastal Adaptation Project (2010)
- DOI Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative (2010)
- Coastal Areas Climate Change Education Partnership (CACCE) (2010)
- San Juan Bay Estuary Program and Jobos Bay NERR vulnerability assessments in progress (2013-2015)



#### **Puerto Rico Coastal Adaptation Project\*:**



#### **Primary outputs will be:**

- 1. Vulnerability Assessment for multiple sectors
- 2. Recommended Adaptation Strategies and Policies





Recruit critical partners and develop the collaboration process

- Launched PRCCC and created four working groups
- Agreed on the process, guiding principles, and a vision for Puerto Rico
- Agreed on the sectors to be assessed
- Created the PR-CC-Listerv



Systematically collect data and knowledge

- Analyze historic trends and future possible climate projections (WG1)
- Create PR Climate Change Research Library
- Preliminary/Qualitative Assessment with expert input (WG 2 and WG 3)
- VCAPS Facilitated Dialogue Process at WG meetings



Risk Assessment
Workshops with
Municipalities

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August 2013

# Recruit critical partners and develop the collaboration process...



## Puerto Rico Climate Change Council (PRCCC)





































































Fideicomiso de Conservación de Puerto Rico

Recruit critical partners and develop the collaboration process

- Launched PRCCC and created four working groups
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Researched collaboratively created vulnerability assessments in the United States, Latin

America and islands around the world



### PRCCC Vision and Objectives

Safe



 To use the best available scientific knowledge to identify the communities and ecosystems most at-risk from coastal hazards and climate change.

**Healthy** 



 To identify, assess, develop, and prioritize effective adaptation strategies and policies that could be implemented in Puerto Rico.

**Sustainable** 



 To communicate findings, consensuses, and recommendations to government, civil society, the media, and the private sector.

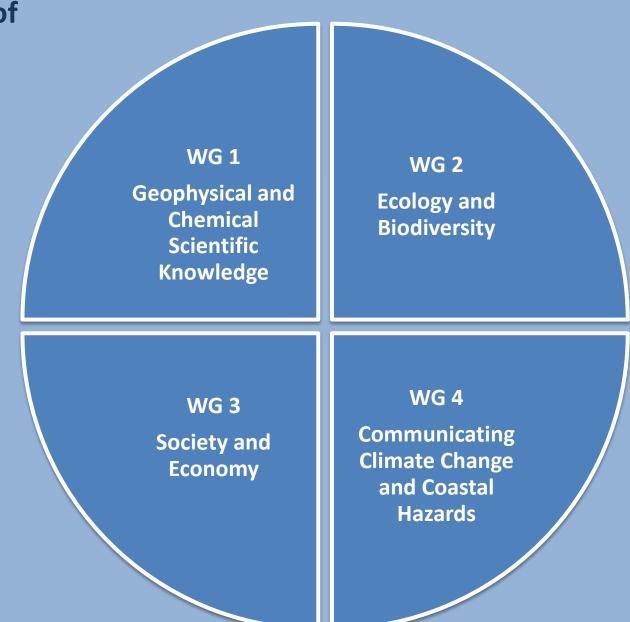
**Productive** 



 To cultivate a well-informed Puerto Rican society about coastal hazards, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Resilient

4 Working Groups of the Puerto Rico Climate Change Council (PRCCC)



Historic Trends and Possible Future Climate Conditions for:

Air and Sea Surface Temperatures
Precipitation
Extreme Events (downpours, droughts)
Sea Level Rise
Tropical Storms and Hurricanes
Ocean Acidification

## WG 1: Geophysical and Chemical Scientific Knowledge

## WG 2: Ecology and Biodiversity

Beach Ecosystems Wetlands Coral Reefs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Lagoons/Biobays Cays and Islets **Amphibians and Reptiles** Sea Turtles **Marine Mammals** 

Avian Species
Coastal Fish
Pelagic Fish
Forests (coastal forests,
Caribbean National forest, dry
forests, etc)



## WG 3: Society and Economy

#### **Economic Development**

Livelihoods

Tourism and Recreation

Manufacturing

Cinema

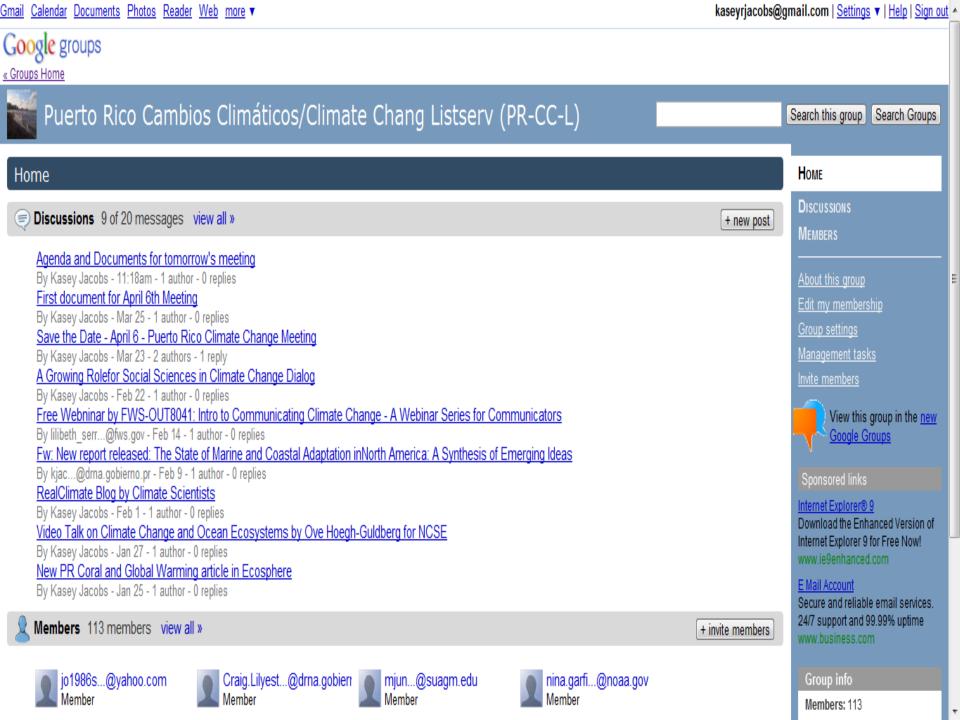
**Fisheries** 

Energy

Coastal Communities
Water resources
Historical and Cultural
Preservation
Population Growth and
Development Trends
Social Vulnerability
Health



# WG 4: Communicating Climate Change and Coastal Hazards



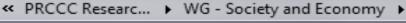
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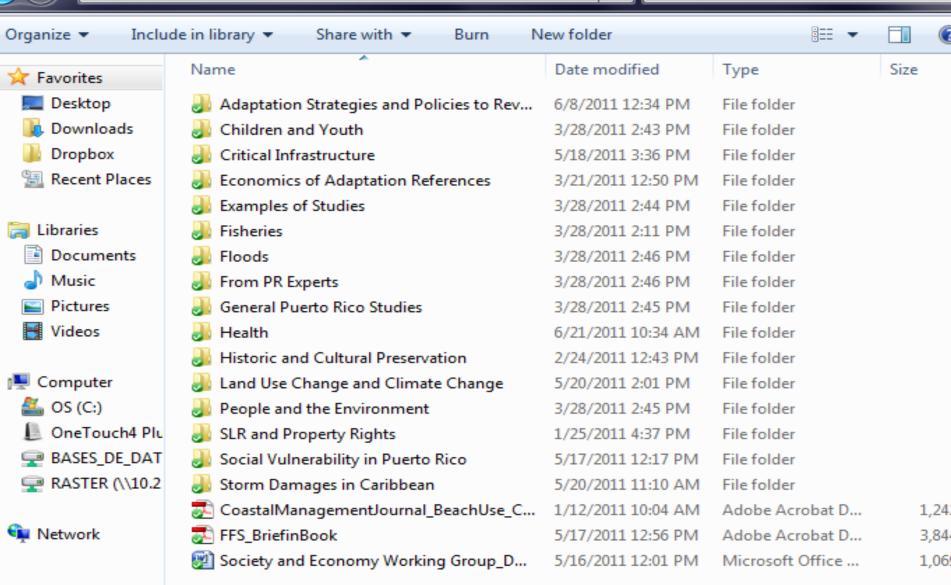
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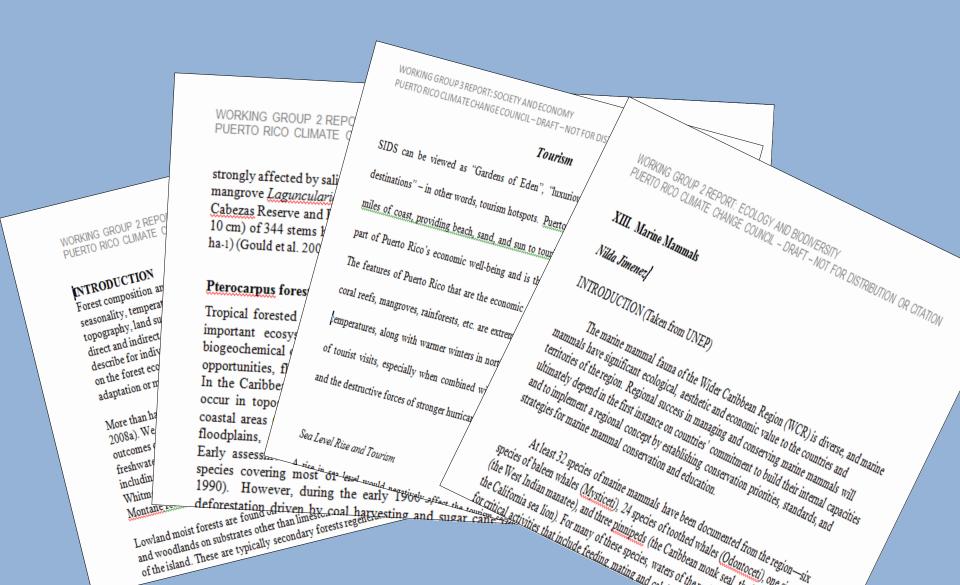
Search WG - Society and Economy

44

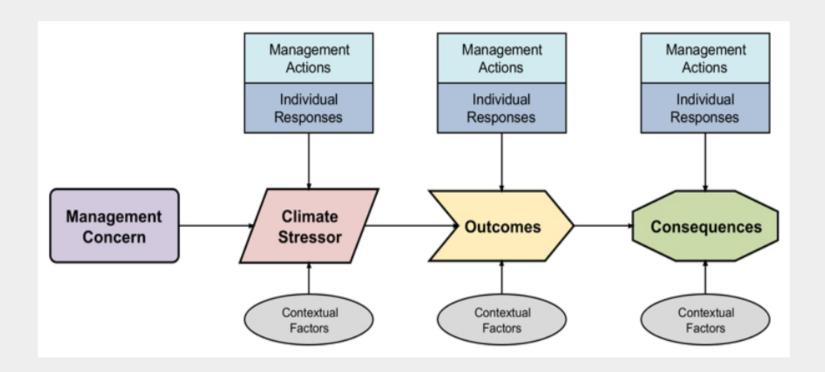


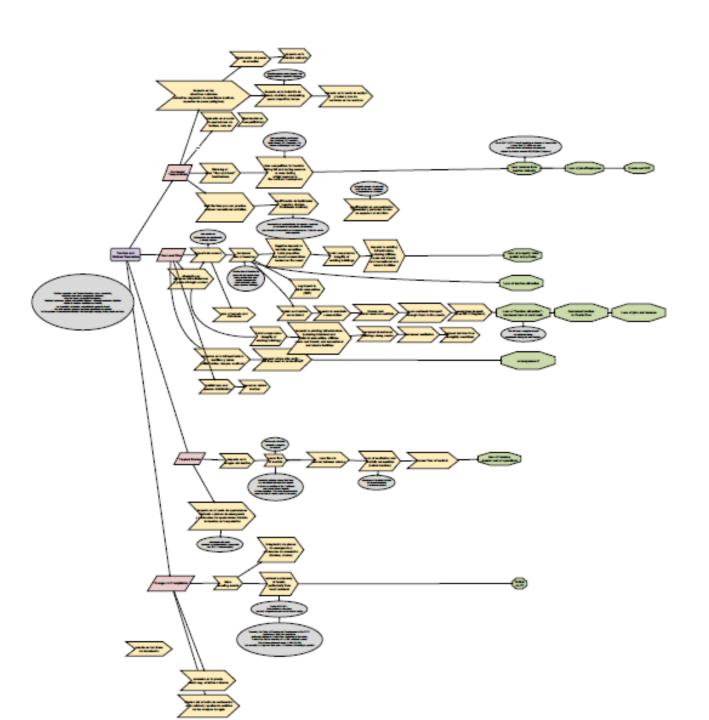
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## Descriptive Vulnerability Assessments



## VCAPS diagrams: Building blocks





## WG 2 Coral Reef Subcommittee Meeting



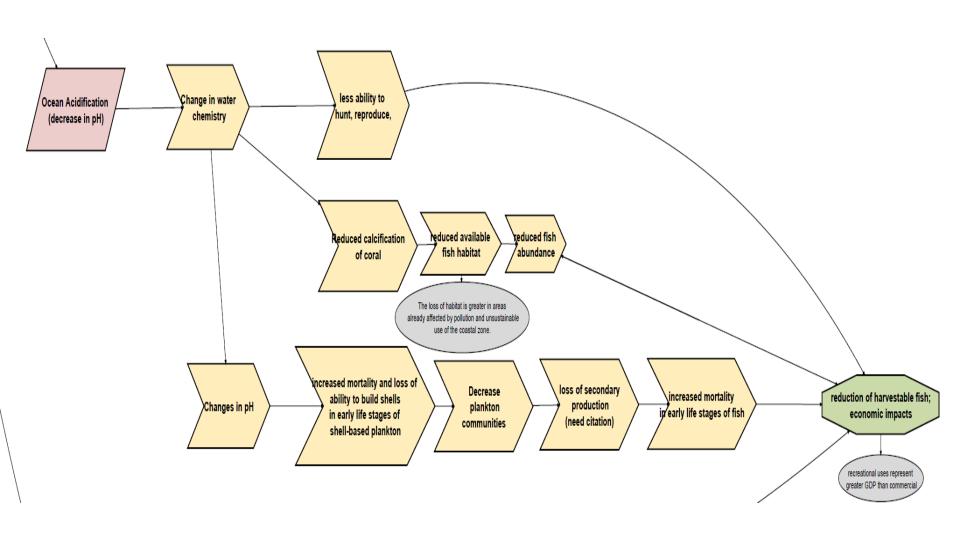


# WG 2 Coral Reef Subcommittee Meeting



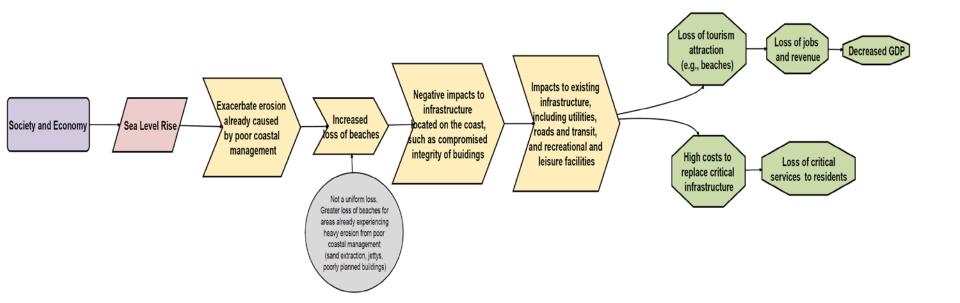


### VCAPS Diagram – Coastal Fish



## VCAPS Diagram – Tourism





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March 2012



## DE RIESGOS ACTUALES Y FUTUROS EN LA ZONA COSTANERA

- □ Erosión
- □ Tormentas y marejadas
- Inundaciones fluviales y costeras
- Lluvias y sequías más intensas
- Efectos del cambio climático
- ☐ Estrategias de adaptación

#### 6 de marzo de 2012

(Municipios costeros del norte) Embassy Suites, Dorado

#### 8 de marzo de 2012

(Municipios costeros del sur) Ponce Hilton, Ponce

Ambos talleres serán de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m.

RSVP: 787-999-2200 x.2729 / 2730





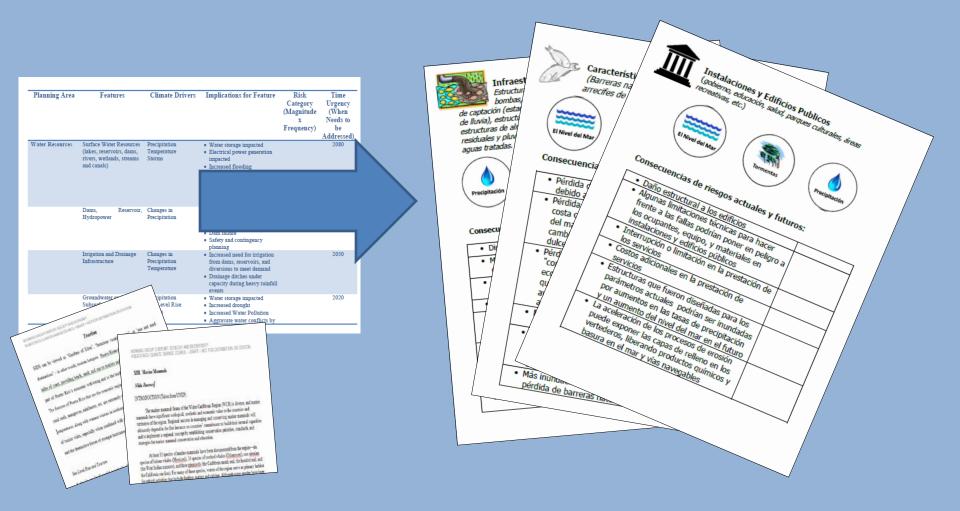




#### **Desired Outcomes:**

- Well-informed municipal representatives on PRCCC and climate risks to Puerto Rico
- Agreed upon risk information and risk matrices (or in the least the appropriate information for the PRCCC to create risk matrices)
- List of municipal recommendations to the PRCCC Working Groups
- Lists of knowledge gaps and other information to guide the process from 2012 to 2013
- List of brainstormed adaptation strategies at the municipal level

## Validating Draft Vulnerability Assessment: Summary information into "Strawman" Proposal





#### Instalaciones y Edificios Publicos

(gobierno, educación, salud, parques culturales, áreas recreativas, etc.)



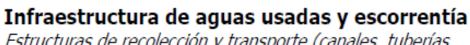
#### Estructuras de propiedad privada

(viviendas unifamiliares y múltiples, edificios de oficinas, hoteles, edificios comerciales, estaciones de gasolina, y centros comerciales)



#### Infraestructura de Generación de Energía

(Plantas de generación de energía; infraestructura de transmisión e infraestructura de distribución)



Estructuras de recolección y transporte (canales, tuberías, bombas, alcantarillas, arroyos urbanos, quebradas); estructuras

de captación (estanques, lagos urbanos, y sistemas de recolección de agua de lluvia), estructuras de control de calidad (por ejemplo, desarenadores); estructuras de almacenamiento, sistemas de desbordamiento de aguas residuales y pluviales, plantas de tratamiento y sistemas de descarga de aguas tratadas.



**Transporte** (puertos, carreteras, puentes)



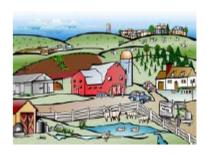
#### Suministro de Agua

(recursos de agua superficial, aguas subterráneas y del subsuelo; acuíferos costeros; represas y energía hidroeléctrica)



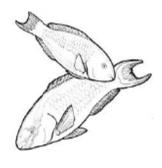
#### Servicios de Agua

estructuras de almacenamiento, procesamiento y distribución de agua potable (tuberías principales de agua, etc.)



#### Recursos de Agua para Irrigación y Drenaje

(infraestructura para irrigación y drenaje)



## Características naturales que protejan la costa (Barreras naturales, como manglares, dunas, rocas o arrecifes de coral)



#### Recursos Históricos y Culturales

(lugares de interés histórico y significado cultural)

## 30/44 coastal municipalities attended



## Co-Facilitated North and South Coast Workshops with TNC



## And with volunteer breakout discussion facilitators from:









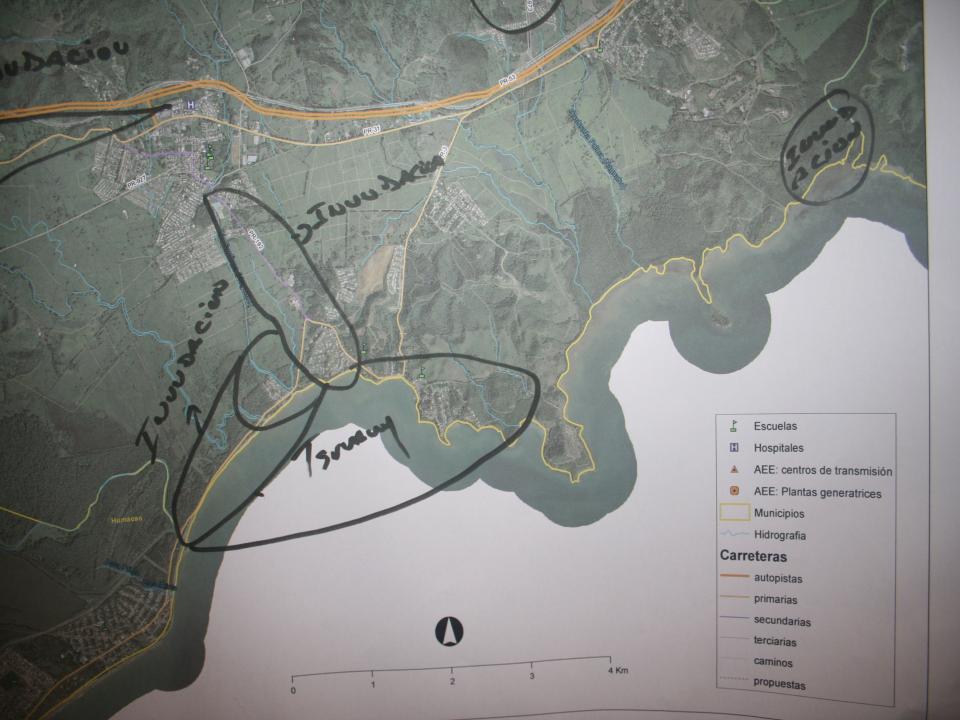












## Municipal Exposure

Camuy, Hatillo, Barceloneta example



### ority Vulnerabilities



Necesidades

- Servicios medicos para atender traumas mayores Equipostpara responder

- Capacidad de mantener orden y segunidad luego de un desastre
- Recursos económicos para todo lo anterior
- Aumentar la educación de la población

ner

Priority Vulneabilities ( )

- AEE (Autoridad Energia Electrica

- AAA

(acuequetos y alcanterillodo)

(afectaciones a las subestaciónes)

- Inoperabilidad del aeropuerto
- Sistema acantarillado pluvial (Aguadilla)
- Planta de tratafemiento de aguas usadas (inoperante) por le niver mar (Isabela)
- Vias, carreteras si se inundan las



## Combined Workshop Results with Working Group 3 Expertise

**PRCCC Risk Matrix** 

Área de planificación	Puntuación promedio de riesgo	Factor climático
Características naturales que protejan la costa (barreras naturales como manglares, dunas, rocas o arrecifes de coral)	Alto 11.63	Precipitación, Temperatura, Tormentas, Acidificación
Estructuras de propiedad privada (viviendas unifamiliares y múltiples, edificios de oficinas, hoteles, edificios comerciales, estaciones de gasolina, centros comerciales, etc.)	Alto 11.38	Nivel del mar, Tormentas
Instalaciones y edificios públicos (gobierno, educación, salud, parques culturales, áreas recreativas, etc.)	Alto 10.90	Nivel del mar, Tormentas
Infraestructura de aguas usadas y escorrentía: estructuras de recolección y transporte (canales, tuberías, bombas, alcantarillas, arroyos urbanos y quebradas), estructuras de captación (estanques, lagos urbanos y sistemas de recolección de agua de lluvia), estructuras de control de calidad (por ejemplo, desarenadores), estructuras de almacenamiento, sistemas de desbordamiento de aguas residuales y pluviales, plantas de tratamiento y sistemas de descarga de aguas tratadas	Alto 10.60	Precipitación, Temperatura, Tormentas
Transporte (puertos, carreteras, puentes)	Alto 10.31	Precipitación, Nivel del mar
Infraestructura de generación de energía (plantas de generación de energía, infraestructura de transmisión e infraestructura de distribución)	Alto 9.57	Nivel del mar, Tormentas
Servicios de agua (estructuras de almacenamiento, procesamiento y distribución de agua potable (tuberías principales de agua, etc.)	Mediano 8.86	Precipitación, Temperatura, Tormentas
Suministro de agua (recursos de agua superficial, aguas subterráneas y del subsuelo, acuíferos costeros, represas y energía hidroeléctrica)	Mediano 8.65	Precipitación, Temperatura

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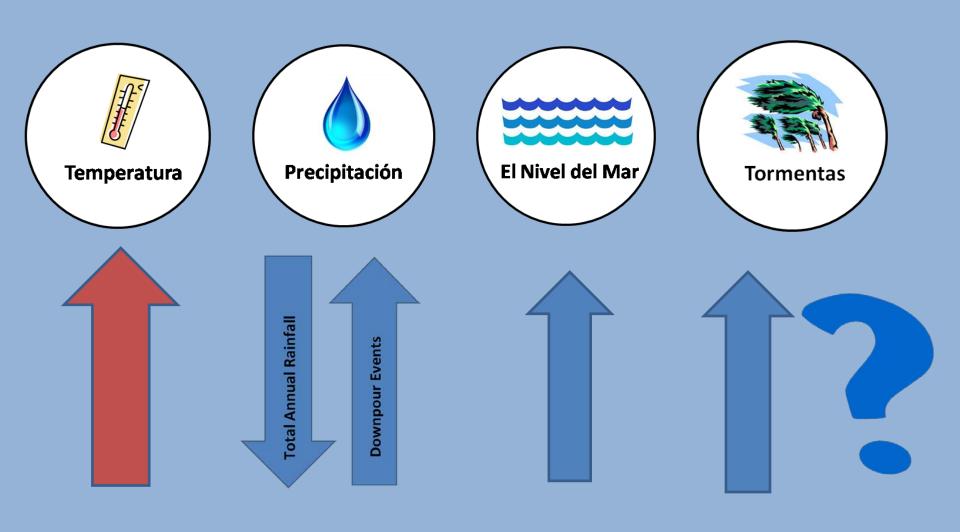
Jan 2013

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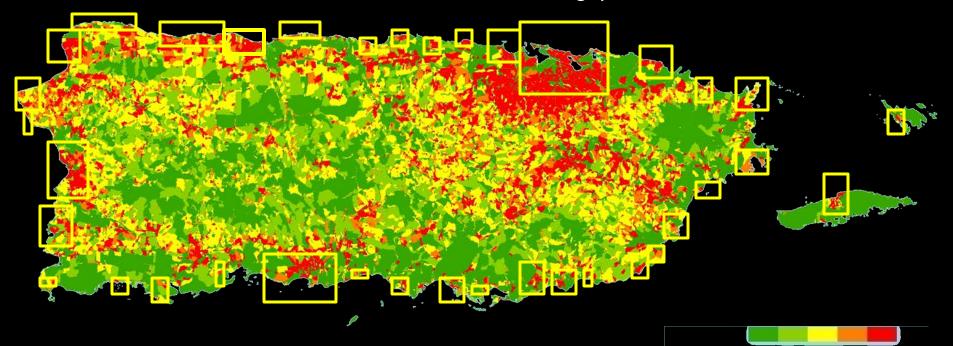
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### **Literature Review and New Analyses**



### **Population density**

Puerto Rico's population density per square miles is among the world's highest, only Bangladesh, The Maldives, Barbados, Taiwan, South Korea and the city-states of Hong Kong and Singapore are more crowded.



24% urban / coastline ratio 4,300 vehicles per mile<sup>2</sup>,146 per paved mile (highest in the World)

#### Critical Infraestructure / CZ jurisdiction (1 Km)









Eight airports





- Six Power Plants
- 1,080 miles of sanitary infrastructure



- ■81 industrial parks
- ■114 miles of primary roads





















# Our "First Lines of Defense" are Disappearing







Fajardo – Lluvias del 17 de abril de 2003

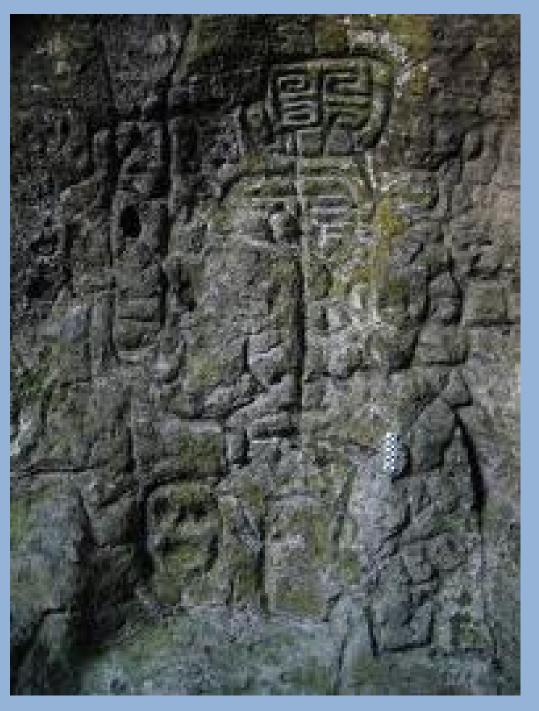






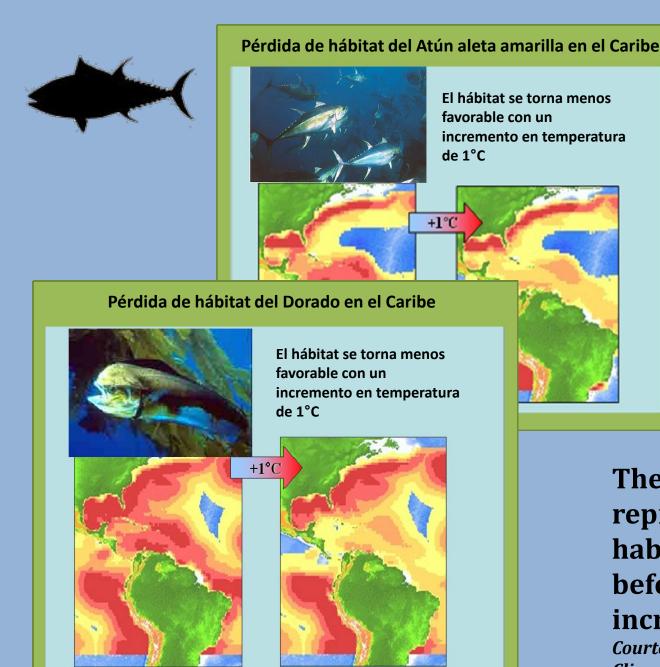


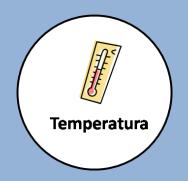






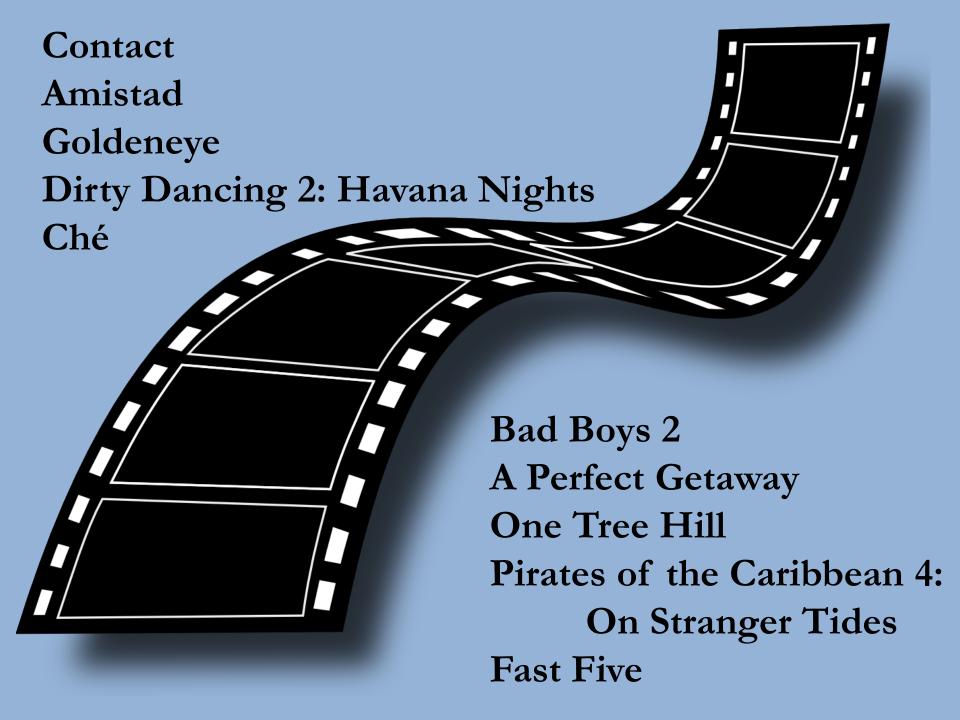






The red ocean portions represent adequate habitat for the species before and after an increase of 1 deg C.

Courtesy of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre





#### STAY HERE

Home > > Lodging & Accommodations

After you have been here a few days, don't be surprised when your mind starts elling you to extend your Puerto Rico vacations. Whether you stay at an elegant San Juan-area hotel, or a Parador in our countryside, it's a common experience to find yourself not wanting to go home.

earn more about the Green Hotel Certification

#### VISIT PUERTO RICO



TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-866-7827

OR CHAT WITH ONE OF OUR AGENTS

LIVE CHAT

WEATHER REPORT

### **SOCIAL VULNERABILITY**

- Island-wide Income per capita (2013) \$17,655
- 45% of island below the poverty level (U.S. @ 15%)
- Example: Municipality of Loíza:
  - Low-lying
  - High social vulnerability (Loiza barrios on the coast scored 23-29)
  - Ex: Educational level in Barrio Torrecilla Baja at Loíza is mainly high school degree. Sixty nine percent (69%) living in poverty level (entire Island 49%)<sup>2</sup>
  - No critical infrastructure other than homes, schools and a health center (on coast)
  - Residential
  - Inundation issues already experienced
  - Low adaptive capacity within municipal government and the community
  - Not a "tsunami-ready community"



Hurricane Irene 2011 in Loíza



#### **SOCIAL VULNERABILITY**

- 'Don't Give Up On Us': Puerto Ricans Wrestle
   With High Crime NPR Story February 7, 2013
- Puerto Rico's population is declining. Faced with a deteriorating economy, increased poverty and a swelling crime rate, many Puerto Ricans are fleeing the island for the U.S. mainland. In a four-part series, Morning Edition explores this phenomenon, and how Puerto Rico's troubles are affecting its people and other Americans in unexpected ways.
- Puerto Rico's per capita murder rate is six times that of the U.S. as a whole. And with violence escalating, many residents are considering joining the thousands of others who have already fled the island for brighter and safer opportunities.
- Yesterday study 33<sup>rd</sup> highest crime in World





## Health

- Climate sensitive conditions<sup>3</sup>:
  - Cardiovascular disease leading cause of death,
  - Asthma<sup>4, 5</sup>. Rate is 113% higher than non-Hispanic whites and 50% higher than non-Hispanic black. The *Preva*lence and mortality of asthma attack is highest among Puerto Ricans and up to 41.3% in children
  - Hypertension, diabetes and asthma comprise 46% of demand for health services



- Puerto Rico: most aeroallergens are fungal spores<sup>7</sup>; no proven effect of carbon dioxide in spore's allergenicity. Increased wind speed and humidity (hurricanes/storms) may enhance spore spread. Thunderstorms and asthma exacerbations have been correlated with a doubling of ambient fungal spores<sup>8</sup>.
- Increased malnutrition and consequent disorders, including those relating to child growth and development (IPCC¹: high confidence)
  - Vulnerability not assessed but 45% of population under national poverty level. Sociopolitical relation with the U.S. may ameliorate impact.







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August 2013

No downscaled climate data specific to Puerto Rico

Only 2 people to manage 4 working groups and do all meeting facilitation, editing, graphic design, etc (really relied on volunteers)

Multiple languages for purposes of review.
Deterred some local participation

Change in administration

**No Vertical Datum** 

How to deal with new information coming out after review drafts were completed (tried to limit to July 2012)

Different levels of climate knowledge in the PRCCC

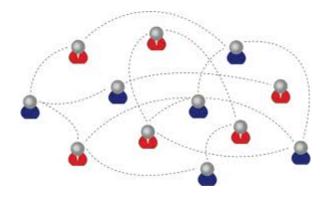
Challenges

Same time frame as the National Climate Assessment

# ¿Quijotesco?

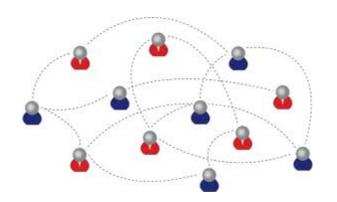








Quijotesco or a Success?









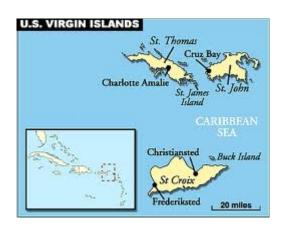
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## **Gracias por su tiempo!**

More Information about the PRCCC: puertoricoclimatechangecouncil@gmail.com

Kasey R. Jacobs <a href="mailto:kaseyrjacobs@gmail.com">kaseyrjacobs@gmail.com</a>

Visit Webpage: www.drna.gobierno.pr





